

#### Remarks/Arguments

This paper is submitted accompanying a Request for Continued Examination. Reconsideration of the application in light of the accompanying remarks is respectfully requested.

An issue has arisen during examination concerning the openings recited in independent claims 1, 10 and 17 and the combined teachings of Finn and Steele.

In the last office action on the merits, independent claims 1, 10 and 17 are finally rejected as obvious over Finn et al. in view of Steele, and in the advisory action mailed July 28, 2010 the Examiner further reiterated this rejection, insisting that Finn teaches a "hole" and that Steele teaches a plurality of "holes" and further that Steele was not cited as teaching this plurality of holes, but rather that Steele teaches a plurality of fuel cells.

First, it is pointed out that the present claims do not call for "holes" but rather call for openings in the frame, a plurality of them in fact, and for fuel cells to be positioned in them. Finn does show a single fuel cell in a frame with a single opening. Steele does show a different structure with multiple fuel cells mounted internally without openings. Assuming that the Examiner is referring to "holes" 9 in Steele, these holes do not in any way correspond to the claimed openings, for at least the reason that no fuel cells are positioned in them. Thus, while "holes" 9 are present in Steele, they are totally irrelevant to the present examination and should not be mentioned in any coherent rejection to be made based upon the present prior art. With this side issue disposed of,

attention can be turned to the real issue of whether Finn's teaching of a single fuel cell in a frame and Steele's teaching of multiple fuel cells mounted internally and not in openings in a frame combine to reach the present claims.

Nothing in the art of record discloses or suggests the claimed frame members having a plurality of openings each with fuel cells mounted in them. Finn et al. teach only a single frame and opening. Even if one were to take the teachings of an array of cells as suggested by the Examiner from Steele, this still leaves the subject matter of the frame defining a plurality of openings and a plurality of fuel cells positioned in the openings. Whatever the teaching in Steele is that avoids any need or desire for a plurality of openings would, it is submitted, be taken into account by a person skilled in the art, and no modification of these references as is done by the Examiner would in fact result.

It is submitted that there is a large gap between Finn and Steele and that filling this gap to reach the claims of the present invention would not reasonably stem from the teachings set forth in these documents. Neither reference suggests the plurality of openings with a fuel cell positioned in each one. The claimed structure is advantageous because it results in a structure which is more robust in the face of structural stresses. Nothing in Finn or Steele would suggest this. Absent some recognition of this benefit, the person skilled in the art simply does not have enough guidance to fill the gap between Finn and Steele.

Based upon the foregoing, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 10 and 17 based upon Finn et al. and Steele is respectfully requested.

By the present response, new claims 18-20 have been added dependent from claim 1. These claims are believed allowable based upon this dependency and the above arguments, and also in their own right.

Dependent claim 18 calls for a separate fuel cell to be positioned in each opening in the frame, and dependent claim 19 calls for the number of openings in a frame and the number of fuel cells positioned in those openings to be the same. Both of these claims are added to help structurally address any remaining issues with the Examiner in connection with interpretation of the "holes" 9 of Steele.

New claim 20 adds more structure concerning the frame and internal frame structures defining cooling passages 32, see Figure 3. Nothing in the art of record discloses or suggests this subject matter.

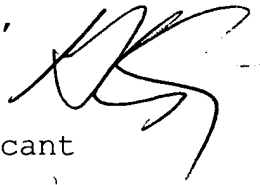
An earnest and thorough effort has been made to respond to all points raised in the office action and to place the application in condition for allowance. If upon consideration of this paper the Examiner is of the opinion that issues remain which could be addressed by telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss same.

Based upon the foregoing, it is believed that independent claims 1, 10 and 17 define patentably over the art of record. Dependent claims 2-7, 11-16 and 18-20 all depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are also believed to be allowable.

A two month extension of time has been requested along with filing of this paper. It is believed that no additional fee is due. If, however, any such fee is due, please charge same to Deposit Account 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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